

REMARKS

A. Objections to Drawings

In the Office Action mailed on April 22, 2003, the drawings were objected to for being informal. Formal drawings are being submitted concurrently with the present Amendment. Accordingly, the objection has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

B. 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 12-15, 17-20, 25, 28, 29 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of Gerdt. Claims 1, 12 and 25 have been canceled and so their rejections have been rendered moot. Regarding claims 2, 7-9, 13, 18-20, 28 and 29, they have been amended so as to depend from either claim 5, 10, 16, 21 or 26. Since claims 5, 10, 16, 21 and 26 have been indicated to contain allowable subject matter, claims 2, 7-9, 13, 18-20, 28 and 29 and their dependent claims should be allowable as well. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 2, 7-9, 13, 18-20, 28 and 29 is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Please note that claims 2, 7-9, 13, 18-20, 28 and 29 have been amended so as to expedite prosecution of the present application and to provide further coverage for the inventions of claims 5, 10, 16, 21 or 26. Accordingly, the amendments are not being made for reasons of patentability as defined in *Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd.*, 234 F.3d 558, 56 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. 2000) (*en banc*),

overruled in part, 535 U.S. 722, 122 S. Ct. 1831 (2002).

C. Claims 5, 10, 11, 16, 21-24, 26, 27 and 30

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 5, 10, 11, 16, 21-24, 26, 27 and 30 have been deemed to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 5, 10, 11, 16, 21-23, 26, 27 and 30 have been amended to be in independent form and so should be allowed.

Please note that the amendments being made to claims 5, 10, 11, 16, 21-23, 26, 27 and 30 are being made to incorporate subject matter that was inherently present in original claims 5, 10, 11, 16, 21-23, 26, 27 and 30. Accordingly, the amendments are not related to patentability as defined in *Festo*.

Note that claims 16, 21-23, 26, 27 and 30 have amended the phrase “an faceted” to read as “a faceted.” Since this corrects an obvious typographical error, the amendment is not being made for reasons of patentability as defined in *Festo*.

D. New Claims 32-53

New claims 32-53 depend directly or indirectly from claims 10, 11, 16, 21-23, 27 and 30 and so are allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 10, 11, 16, 21-23, 27 and 30 have been deemed allowable in Section C above.

Please note that claims 32-53 have been added so as to provide further coverage for the inventions of claims 10, 11, 16, 21-23, 27 or 30. Accordingly, the amendments are not being made for reasons of patentability as defined in *Festo*.

E. Statement of Reasons for Allowance

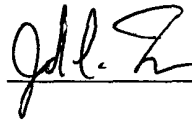
It is noted that a statement of reasons for allowance for claims 5, 10, 11, 16, 21-24, 26, 27 and 30 have been given. Applicants traverse the statement to the extent that there are broader reasons for the allowance of the claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the arguments above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims 2-11, 13-24 and 26-53 are in condition for allowance and seek an early allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any

remaining issues, she is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorneys at
(312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Freeman", is written over a horizontal line.

John C. Freeman
Registration No. 34,483
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER
GILSON & LIONE
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, Illinois 60610
(312) 321-4200

Dated: July 22, 2003